

FEB 6 '73

Happy 85th Birthday, First Baptist Church

INDIANA COLLECTION
Hammond - Churches

Hammond, Indiana

1887 to 1972

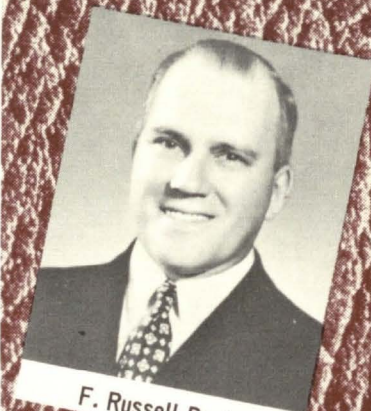
December 3, 1972

THIRTEEN PASTORS HAVE SERVED

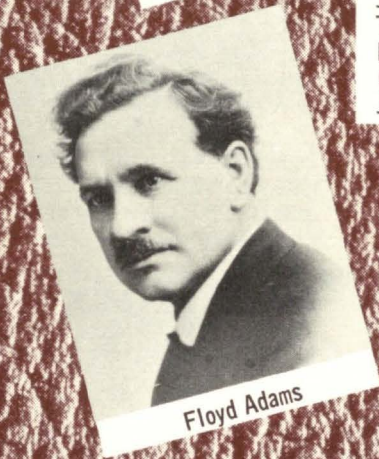
B. P. Hewitt April, 1888 – May, 1893
S. W. Phelps August, 1893 – October, 1900
E. T. Carter November, 1900 – December, 1901
W. H. Jones January, 1902 – October, 1907
J. E. Sharp January, 1908 – April, 1911
Floyd Adams August, 1911 – December, 1918
R. O. Licklider January, 1919 – August, 1921
J. Clark Oranger November, 1921 – March, 1927
J. M. Horton August, 1927 – September, 1941
T. Leonard Lewis October, 1941 – August, 1944
F. Russell Purdy October, 1944 – June, 1947
Owen L. Miller October, 1947 – November, 1958
Jack Hyles August, 1959 –



W. H. Jones



F. Russell Purdy



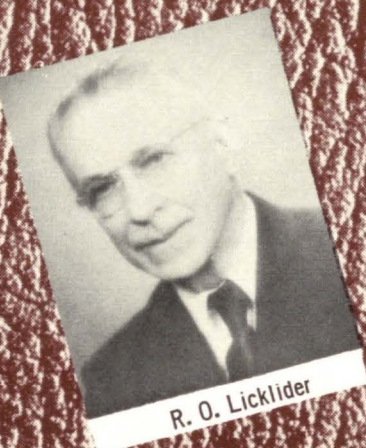
Floyd Adams



J. M. Horton



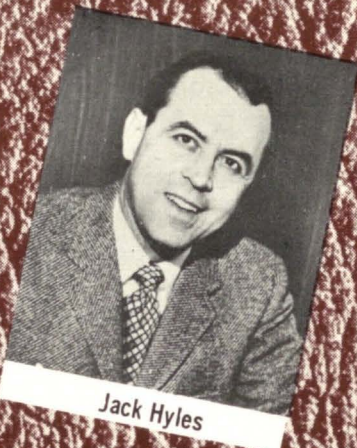
Owen L. Miller



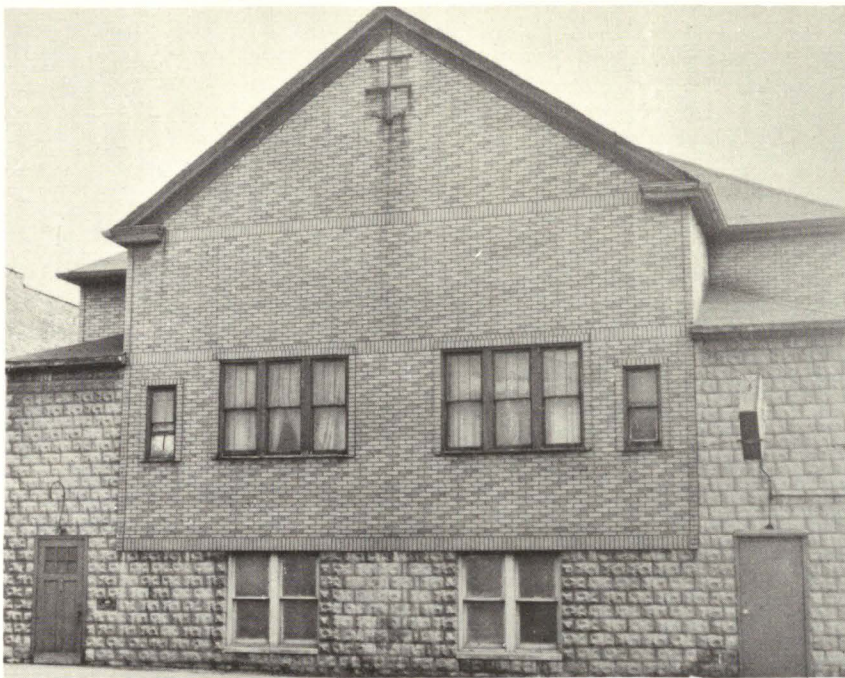
R. O. Licklider



T. Leonard Lewis



Jack Hyles



ORIGINAL CHURCH SITE, 526 SIBLEY STREET

The church began with 12 members who met in the attic of the old Morton House, on the corner of Willow Court and Morton Court, 1 block east of Hohman. The first church building at 526 Sibley Street was very small. By 1904, 275 people were calling the First Baptist Church their church and met in this, their second church building on this site.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Pigeons loved our building as much as we loved them, including taking them and erecting a stuffed owl on the roofline in this picture. The Men's Bible



GROUND-BREAKING DAY FOR THE NEW AUDITORIUM

About 1962, it became apparent that a new auditorium was a necessity. Several "old-timers" were lined up for picture-taking. Brother Lyons and Brother Hyles directed the proceedings.



JUNE 5, 1964

The new auditorium had just been dedicated in the morning of June 4, an arsonist set fires which raged on the old auditorium building. The old auditorium was destroyed but God spared our new auditorium!



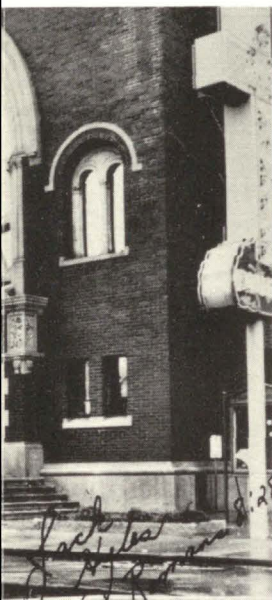
CHURCH BUILDING, 1913-1964

is we did. Many methods of getting rid of decorations from the front of the building. Notice that Miller Hall is under construction. Class Building is on the left.



INTERIOR OF THE OLD AUDITORIUM, 1942

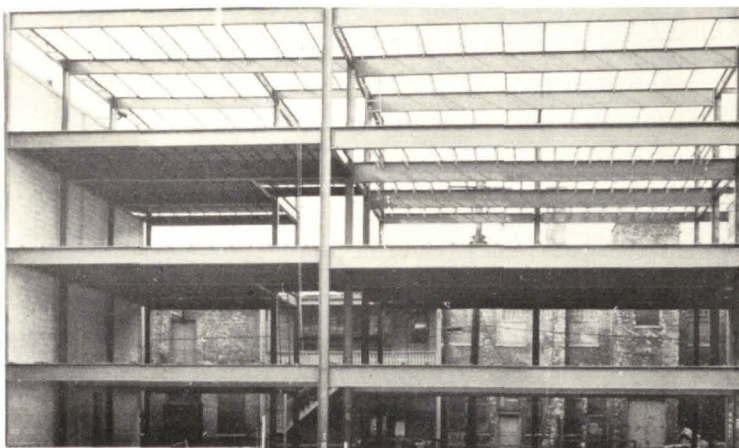
The Youth Choir paused during Sunday afternoon rehearsal to have their picture taken with their organist, director, pianist, pastor's wife and pastor.



April! During the night either side of that new wing with the Youth Center,



Time to Break Ground for Our New Educational Building



Up It Goes!

The Crowds Have Come



NOVEMBER 8, 1970
"10,000 SUNDAY"

The Sunday school attendance was 11,348. Dr. Carl McIntire was elated as we all gathered outside. He even wore his "I WAS THERE" button on a later trip to Japan to show that he too was "there" the first time a church had 10,000 in Sunday school.

We topped this attendance on December 19, 1971, on "HEAVEN SUNDAY" with 12,530 in Sunday school. (We had all worn our "I'M GOING TO HEAVEN SUNDAY" buttons throughout the week prior to this historic Sunday.)



SEPTEMBER 18, 1972
THE WORLD'S LARGEST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dr. Elmer Towns, Sunday School Editor of Christian Life Magazine, is presenting a plaque to Dr. Jack Hyles, making official this distinction.

The Sunday school average attendance for 1971 was 5,917. For the first seven Sundays of the 1972 Fall Program the Sunday school has averaged over 8,000 in attendance.



1971 PASTORS' SCHOOL

The Hammond Civic Center has been filled with our crowds many times during the past 13 years.